



SUMMER 2009

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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the Entire Family

White House Visitor Center
1450 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC
www.nps.gov/whho

Around the Park: Rehabilitation of the First Division Monument

In keeping with the National Park Service mission to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations,” President’s Park is undertaking a thorough rehabilitation of the First Division Monument.

The First Infantry Division of the United States Army is the oldest division in the United States Army, and has seen continuous service since its organization in 1917. The monument was conceived by the Society of the First Division, the veteran’s organization of the U.S. Army’s First Division, to commemorate the lives of members of the division who died during World War I. Later additions to the monument commemorate the lives of First Division soldiers who fought in subsequent wars. The stately column surmounted by an allegorical statue of Victory was dedicated on October 24, 1924.

The Rehabilitation of the First Division Monument and surrounding grounds involves correction of drainage problems on the monument plaza, replacement of sidewalks, replacement of the site’s irrigation system, and rehabilitation of plantings. The project also involves maintenance on the statue base and plaza elements including repairing stone, cutting and pointing masonry joints, resetting stones, and waxing memorial plaques.

The project is expected to be completed in the fall, with grass restoration to follow.



In honor of the First Division’s nickname, “The Big Red One,” a bed of colorful red flowers in the shape of the number 1 is planted at the monument’s base.

Celebrate the Constitution at the White House Visitor Center



From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, President’s Park will present a special program, “We the People” celebrating the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. Visitors will have the opportunity to travel back in time to 1787 and add their names alongside the signatures of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Madison and other Founding Fathers. At 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 pm, the Center will “host” the Constitutional Convention with many “signers” in attendance. Everyone is invited to recite the Preamble to the Constitution at 1:00 p.m. The “town crier” will invite all guests to join us for a day of games, crafts, and historical activities!

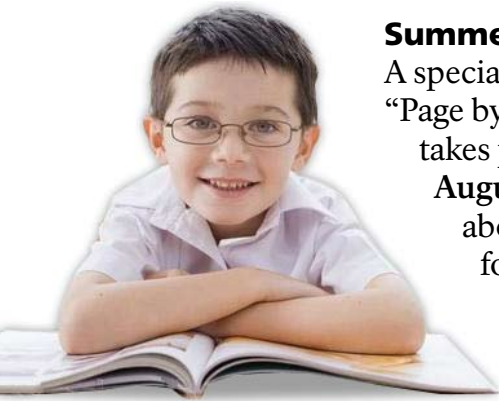
SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT PRESIDENT’S PARK

Independence Forever

On Saturday, July 4, “1776” from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Visitor Center will become the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Join us at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. as we “host” the Second Continental Congress. Delegates from all thirteen colonies will “meet” to approve the Declaration of Independence, one of the most important documents in the United States. It represented the official first step toward the separation of the thirteen colonies from the control of Great Britain. Participate in this most momentous occasion and take part in the celebration.

Become a Junior Ranger

Junior Rangers are important people because they help Park Rangers protect and take care of the resources of President’s Park, as well as other National Parks. This is a big job because there are 391 areas in the U.S. National Park System! A Junior Ranger also learns about the buildings, objects, plants, animals and history of the National Parks, and shares that knowledge with their friends and family. Take part in the President’s Park Junior Ranger Program by asking for a Junior Ranger activity booklet at the Information Desk in the White House Visitor Center.



Summer Reading Program

A special one-hour reading and crafts program, “Page by Page,” for children under the age of 6 takes place on Tuesdays, June 23 through August 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Learn about the history of the White House, the four-legged residents who lived there, and other special places and events in our community. *No reservations required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

The National Park Service Turns 93

Visitors are invited to the White House Visitor Center on Tuesday, August 25, between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to help celebrate the 93rd birthday of the National Park Service. The Visitor Center will play host to the interactive program called, “Are You Smarter than a Park Ranger?” During this fun and engaging half-hour long game show scheduled at 10 a.m., 12 noon and 1:30 p.m., members of the audience will compete for prizes by testing their knowledge of the National Park Service. The day’s events will also include art and craft activities and games suitable for all family members.

National Public Lands Day

On Saturday, September 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., President’s Park will celebrate National Public Lands Day. This event builds partnerships between the public sector and the local community by having volunteer groups work hand-in-hand with Park Service personnel on preserving and protecting America’s natural heritage. *Reservations are required for these projects; please call (202) 208-1631, Ext. 228 for additional information.*

40 years ago on this day:
July 20, 1969

“Hello, Neil and Buzz. I’m talking to you by telephone from the Oval Room at the White House, and this certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made.”

President Richard Nixon spoke from the Oval Office by radio-telephone to Apollo 11 commander Neil Armstrong and Lunar module pilot Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin.



ASK A PARK RANGER

Welcome Visitors

Our Park staff is ready, willing and able to answer all your questions. Look for the unique hat every Park Ranger wears, these President’s Park employees have a wealth of information and can handle almost all presidential trivia questions, too! Our Park volunteers wear yellow baseball hats and also know about what’s happening in the area. Brochures and maps can be obtained at the Information Desk in the Visitor Center, as well as at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion, which also has an up-to-date bulletin board for visitor use.



Talks and Walks

Park rangers and volunteers present interpretive talks daily at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on topics of interest about the White House and President’s Park. These talks and walks, posted daily in the Visitor Center, last 20 minutes to one hour, and give you a bird’s eye view of President’s Park history, as well as people who have lived in the neighborhood, the many events held within the Park, and the monuments and memorials located here.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Attention, Educators:

The National Park Service and President’s Park offer a reading program (Pre-k to 2nd grade) and a President’s Neighborhood program (3rd grade to 6th grade). These programs help students strengthen skills in critical thinking, analyzing, observing, researching and writing. All programs are free of charge and last approximately 60 to 90 minutes. Reservations are available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on a first-come, first-served basis. *To inquire about availability, contact a park ranger at (202) 208-1631.*



Experience Your America

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at whho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.